GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1569
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2016
Discharge of Effluents into Lakes
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of lakes which are situated in and around metropolitan cities across the country;
(b) whether the Government is aware of the repeated effluent and sewer discharge into these local water bodies; and
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)According to National Wetland Inventory Atlas published by the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad in 2011, there are a total of 7,57,060 wetlands, including lakes and other water bodies, in the country. However, no specific inventory of lakes in and around the 46 metropolitan cities (as per 2011 Census) has not been prepared.

(b)& (c) A few lakes in and around metropolitan cities have been impacted due to disposal of partially/untreated sewage and industrial effluents.

It is responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated so that the untreated sewage is not discharged in lakes and other water bodies, thereby polluting them. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the States for conservation of identified lakes which are polluted and degraded under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). To have better synergy and avoid overlap, the NLCP has been merged with the scheme of National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), which is presently operational on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. So far, projects for conservation 63 lakes in 14 States have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 1096.09 crore under NLCP/NPCA and Rs.635.902 crore has been released to the concerned States. The projects sanctioned under NLCP / NPCA also include works for conservation of some lakes in the metropolitan cities of Bengaluru, Thane, Jaipur, Udaipur, Srinagar and Kolkata.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) regarding setting up off sewage treatment plants and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 46 municipal authorities of metropolitan cities under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage for restoration of water quality of water bodies, including lakes.

To regulate discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective SPCBs / PCCs monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the compliance by industries, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent monitoring devices. Steps have also been taken by CPCB to promote low waste and no-waste concepts leading to 'Zero Liquid Discharge' by grossly water polluting industries.

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